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Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

February 14, 2003

VIA HAND DELIVERY

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Written Ex Parte, CC Docket No. 99-273

Dear Ms. Dortch:

The attached email was sent by the undersigned to Gregory Cooke of the Wireline Competition Bureau on February 13, 2003, regarding issues in the above-referenced proceeding.

This notice is being filed pursuant to Section 1.1206(b) of the Commission's rules. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions concerning this matter.

Sincerely,



Nik Hole

Director, Business Affairs
The Number UK Ltd
Winchester House
259-269 Old Marylebone Road
London NW1 5RA UK
44 870 233 1000 (telephone)
44 870 233 2200 (facsimile)

Enclosure

cc: Gregory Cooke

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~~Original Message-----~~

From: Nik Hole [mailto:nik.hole@thenumber118118.com]

Sent: 13 February 2003 19:09

To: 'gcooke@fcc.gov'

Subject: question you asked

Dear Greg,

It was great to meet you. I hope you found the visit useful and Heathrow wasn't too scary on the way home.

With reference to one of your questions you asked: - The US **DA** market is estimated at 4 to 5 billion calls and approximately the same amount in dollars (based on avg price per call of \$1).

I imagine the conference was interesting and you may have a little bit of information overload. I have laid out some of my personal observations below (as someone who has now had a year and a half of looking at the EU experience but had no **DA** background before that). I would be very interested to see if you share those views either now or over time.

1) elimination of default dial-string (no elimination means too big a barrier to entry) 2) fair access to data (even and low data costs, equal accessibility to main database by all suppliers) 3) billing made available on existing bills by networks (as unit cost is too low to make independent billing viable) 4) accessibility (networks forced to enable access to providers' access numbers) 5) size of country (too small and there is a lack of incentive for entry)

If there is any information I can ever help with then please do not hesitate to contact me.

Best wishes,

Nik

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